

# NETWORKS!

JANUARY 2007

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## WINTER SEASON TIPS!! SNOW

- Shovel paths and clearance for any fire hydrant on your property.
- Keep the piles of snow at the end of your driveway low enough so you can see safely as you leave your driveway
- Keep sidewalks and steps clear and safe for visitors and delivery personnel.

## CLIFF-NOTES

BY MOLLY CLIFFORD

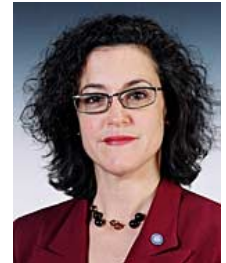
The City of Rochester recently streamlined the former "Certificate of Use" program to make sure that the City's businesses are operating legally and safely without unduly burdening business owners with red-tape.

Our new **Business Permit** program requires a significant portion of the City's retail and service businesses to obtain a permit, a process by which both the business and business owner will be reviewed to make sure that they can comply with City laws and codes.

This program allows NET and the Rochester Police Department to close down businesses engaged in illegal activity more quickly and/or to prevent those that have caused significant problems in the past from re-opening under different names or in new neighborhoods. Many of our neighbors and community organizations had been frustrated with our previous bureaucracy and the legal processes that were required to close down businesses with known nuisance activity.

At the same time, we recognize that the majority of the City's business owners are law-abiding citizens and good partners in the revitalization of our community. We have lowered the cost of the permit, streamlined the application and documentation requirements, and revised our investigation and inspection processes to answer some of the concerns business owners have had about the program.

If you would like more information about the Business Permit program, please visit our Website at [www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov). To report concerns about neighborhood businesses or any other quality of life issues in your neighborhood, please contact your local NET office. And as always, if you would like to share any comments or suggestions, please contact me at any time at 428-6524 or [molly.clifford@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:molly.clifford@cityofrochester.gov). Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2007!



**Molly Clifford**  
NET Director

## THE HAWKEYE REPORT BY DAVID HAWKES

This month I'd like to briefly remind all of our readers to be aware of your surroundings during this Holiday Season. While shopping and enjoying festive events be mindful of carrying packages, not overloading yourselves, and not leaving cell phones, purses, CD's etc. in plain view in your vehicles. Lastly, have your keys in hand, stay away from unlighted areas, and try to travel in groups.

Congratulations to the folks on Marlborough Road for forming a Block Club. A unique thing about them is they have networked with their neighbors on Roxborough Road. The two clubs are comparing their initiatives and using best practices to collaborate with their area delegate and NET Office to strengthen their ties.

They are excited about this initiative and they are empowering the residents to take an active role in

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**David Hawkes**

## THE HAWKEYE REPORT

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The neighborhood. Marlborough and Roxborough Road are good examples of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in this community.

Another exciting initiative taking place is the Healthy Blocks Program, a partnership of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward Association, NET, and NeighborWorks of Rochester. This initiative encourages residents to get involved to address housing, quality of life, safety, and beautification efforts to establish stable healthy neighborhoods. This program will offer residents and property owners low-interest home improvement loans and grants. We are rolling this initiative out in targeted areas at this time. Workers from The NeighborWorks Healthy Blocks Program will be in our neighborhoods, so let us welcome them and show them why this community is so special. I will keep our readers informed when the selection process is complete.

As this community continues to develop and redevelop, the Sector 4 Southwest Common Council will be hosting a meeting call "Special Visioning." The purpose is to discuss our past projects and to brainstorm future projects. One example of this visioning was when neighbors and stakeholders came together to introduce redevelopment ideas for the City-owned property at 1170 Genesee Street, currently known as the Valley Court Apartments. If you would like to become involved, contact Maxsene Hanks at 783-1381.

More exciting news: different organizations in our community are offering monthly grants focusing on funding for organizations. These grants are mostly directed toward community, civil affairs, education, health, human services, culture, and the arts. For more information on these different types of grants, contact Eleanor Coleman, SWAN Coordinator at 436-8201.

## CITY OF ROCHESTER SNOW ORDINANCE

BY GARY KIRKMIRE, NET CODE COORDINATOR

With the winter season upon us, it's time to get out those shovels and snow blowers to make your driveway and sidewalks safe for passage. Section 104 - 11C of the City Code requires the owner and/or ground floor occupant to maintain the sidewalk area adjacent to the residence free of snow and ice. In addition to this, section 104-11D prohibits anyone from depositing snow onto the street, sidewalk, against a fire hydrant, or on the loading and unloading areas of a public transportation system.

Although the city does have the sidewalks plowed by private contractors when the snow exceeds four inches, this does not remove the above responsibilities stated from both the owner and occupant. Snow season is challenging for everyone, but by keeping your sidewalks free of snow and ice you can prevent pedestrians from the dangers of walking in the street. This becomes especially important in the areas adjacent to schools.

Complaints regarding snow code violations can be made to your local NET office or to the Office of Customer Satisfaction in the Department of Environmental Services at 428-5990. Any violation of these requirements can be met with a notice and order and/or a municipal code citation.

Please help us make the city sidewalks a safe place of travel for everyone by removing snow and ice whenever it's necessary.

## ROLL CALL



BY LT. JASON MAITLAND

It Starts Right Here...Most of the time older residents make the connection. Once in awhile, astute kids do also. Spending time out on foot on the streets of our city, the symptoms can be seen in our challenged neighborhoods: litter, property damage, loitering, drug sales and violence. The conversation about the connection tends to follow this pattern: "They just don't care... about the street, other people's property, or other people." The conversation almost always becomes an examination of the social fabric of the area, and concludes with a statement about the absence of respect, the tearing of this fabric.

The evidence can be a bit elusive at first, simple things such as teens sitting on the stoop of a vacant house, or the stoop of an occupied house. Trash on the sidewalk outside of a store tells us that the customer no longer even considers putting litter in a trashcan, and the proprietor concurs by refusing to pick up around his business. Cars equipped with sound systems designed not to provide

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## ROLL CALL



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the highest quality audio to its occupants, but to assail everyone in the area with loud noise, essentially proclaiming “Here I am, and you can’t do anything about me.”

Well, things can be done and are being done to stop this. Police can and do enforce noise ordinances, move people along from street corners and problem areas and make arrests for quality of life violations. However, this is treating the symptoms of the disorder, the unsustainable remedy that can be applied to the most affected areas in a temporary manner. Like any good medication, this remedy should not be relied upon to cure the illness over the long haul.

Making the connection is important, but acting on the observation is the step that must be taken for sustainable resolution. It starts right here: picking up the trash and challenging those who disrespect our neighborhoods. Explaining to our friends and family that they can enjoy their music without imposing it on others around them. And lastly, become involved in the upkeep of our neighborhoods by volunteering for such effective programs as Neighborhood Watch, and PAC-TAC (Police and Citizens Together Against Crime). This New Year, resolve to give your block club or NET office a call and ask how you can become involved.

## INSPECTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

BY RON PENDERS

It is about five-thirty p.m. on trash collection day and there is not a toter in sight, not even a recycling bin. Lawns nicely mowed, bushes neatly trimmed, flower beds in full bloom. This must be the suburbs? No, I am in the city of Rochester. I am *inside* our city, not on the outer-edge, not on the border. I am on the streets of Rochester.

It may come as a surprise to some, but every NET office has streets that look just like this. They do not get publicity, but they should. The spotlight does not catch those streets that emphasize our city’s potential, but it should. I am writing this to demonstrate that all of our streets have potential. We can challenge those declining areas and help our neighboring streets shine. With a joint effort between the City of Rochester and our neighbors, we can improve every property, every street, every neighborhood. We can maximize our community’s potential, but only if we work together.

There are many families that refuse to give in to the notion that City living means declining streets and property values. They continue to maintain their properties and hope other neighbors follow their lead. These are the properties that aren’t seen as simply houses, but as homes. Whether they are privately owned, or rental properties, these homes contain families that take pride in the appearance of not only *their* homes, but the entire street. Although it may seem like a small start for just one house, one property, it portrays the undying determination of the neighborhood. It is a joint venture to keep a street clean, not only the responsibility of the owner, or just one tenant, but a communal assignment for all residents.

Each improved property significantly helps the appearance of the street, and this is only half of the puzzle. Communication among neighbors will optimize our streets, as we look for ways in which we can jointly improve all properties. Neighbors must work together to better our neighborhood as a whole. Taking on an entire neighborhood may seem to be a rigorous task, but there are resources available to help you do this. Your local neighborhood groups and the NET offices offer the tools you need to make a seemingly impossible task, possible. Our primary goal is to help improve our city as a whole, and each neighborhood, each street, each property adds to the excellence of our city. It is incredible how infectious kindness, support, and helpfulness can be.

## WHAT’S REALLY GOOD!

Check out the following delicious eateries in our area:

- ◆ Grandma’s Place at 176 Genesee Street. They specialize in Soul, Spanish, Italian , and other dishes.
- ◆ Natural Vibes at 348-350 Thurston Road. They specialize in a variety of fish and vegetarian cuisine with a Caribbean flavor.
- ◆ El Latino Restaurant’ at 366 Thurston Road.
- ◆ Congratulations to Sensuous Satiabes at 760 Genesee Street on their grand opening.

# NETWORKS!

## NET AREA C

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## NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS!

### SWAN Board

Meetings start at 6:00 pm @ the Southwest Community Center  
Contact: Mr. Ron Allen @ 436-8201

### Sector 4 CDC

3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:30 am at the CDC Office  
Contact: Dana Miller, Chair @ 235-2925

### Cultural Committee

4th Monday of every month @ 6:00 pm  
Contact: Lisa Johnson @ 436-7401

### Sector 4 Common Council

3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm @ Southwest Community Center  
Contact: Maxsene B. Hanks @ 527-9566 ext 205

### Sector 4 PCIC

PCIC Meeting is the 2nd Wednesday at St. Monica's Church

### Sector 4 Business & Economic Development Comm

2nd Wednesday of every month @ 6:00 pm @ the CDC Office  
Contact: Josann Reaves, Chair @ 436-3862

### Public Safety Committee

3rd Thursday of every month @ 6:00 pm, Genesee Substation/587 Jefferson  
Contact: Patricia Jackson, Chair @ 436-8201

### Sector 4 Community/Communications Committee

1st Thursday of every month @ 6:15 pm @ Community Center

### Youth, Education & Recreation

4th Monday of every month @ 5:30 pm, Anthony Square / Troup St  
Contact: Gladys Royster, Chair @ 328-1382

### Human Services / Housing

2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm, Kennedy Towers/S Plymouth Av  
Contact: Gloria Edmonds @ 328-9010